

(41) Saturday, January 20, 1945

Hells Darling;

Now I'll have to eat humble pie, after having kidded you about missing some days in your writing. I also missed one. Terrible isn't it? I really didn't go without writing at all because I started a letter after work last night but had to abort it in its early stages of creation since they closed shop on me and put away the bulbs for the night. I'll finish that letter tonight if I have time.

Three more of your letters came yesterday, the latest one from January 4th. You explained to me very thoroughly who it was that had died. That was a darned shame. He must have been quite young, and with children so young too. That's very hard on them. Had he been sick before or was that just a sudden new affliction.

Thank you for the present you sent even though I have not yet received it. It was very nice and very sweet of you and you got me just exactly the things I could most use out here, stationery, pencils, and the lighter (incidentally, Darling, you don't spell lighter "liter" that is liter and there's a world of difference. Your education has been sadly neglected. I'll have to take you in hand and teach you a

thing or three when I get back. Of course I mean that I'll teach you something about the correct use of the English language, what did you think I meant I'd teach you?—Oh, that!! Well, I'll do that too.

There's one thing that puzzles me about the gifts you sent though. Why the soap? Didn't you think I'd wash over here? Do you have to keep hinting like that? You must think I need you to take care of me all the time. If you do you're perfectly right, so go right on thinking that way. I need you more than I need or ever needed anything in all my life.

I can hardly wait to feast on the cookies and nuts that Mother and Pop (you never told me what your father thinks of that name did you?) sent me in that package. It was darned nice of them and I agree with you when you say they are very wonderful. I like them an awful lot. They make me feel just like one of the family, which is just what I am now. Incidentally, I'm not having much luck with my attempts as a silversmith, largely because of the lack of tools. I believe I'll have to wait until payday and just buy a bracelet fork for them. It's cheaper to buy them than to make them. Some fellows make very nice

ones.

I'm sorry if I offended your sterling Victorian character my wissonic mistend blossom but if you expected me to say that I was sorry I made the remark that I wish we had been the ones to put up that exhibit outside the Hort building I'm going to discourage you. I still wish more than ever that it had been us, and although we could have selected better places, even the Hort Building would be nice if we were together.

There is something I should tell you though, and that is that I am not very fond of the item mentioned above in the capacity for which it is utilized. There are much better substitutes in this field which I think would be much better and more satisfactory to us both. I believe you mentioned the fact once that we wouldn't be able to obtain them before our post war vacation starts. Are you sure you can't? It would be much better than the other. Did you ever hear of the man who was afraid ~~of~~ of burning his mouth while eating and in trying to avoid this had his mouth lined with asbestos, preventing him from tasting and enjoying the food? It's just a little fable I once heard. It

teaches an important lesson.

It was very nice of Mother and Pop to give you, or us, that place setting as a Christmas present. They are very thoughtful. I wish I could see it. By the time I'm with you again we'll have the whole set bought, plus some small articles of furniture. I'm so anxious to get back to a home of our own where there will be just the two of us. I hope and pray that day comes soon.

Maybe my family would like to see something of me when I get back but I hate to put off our wedding. Still we wouldn't have to put it off because we'd have to wait about a week after applying for our license before we could get it, at least I presume they have a waiting period as they do in Mass and N.H. I could stop in East Lansing, we could apply for the license, get me some clothes and spend a couple of days together; then, but I ~~do~~ hate this part of it like the blue blazes, I could leave you and go home to get Mom and Dad - and Pauline if she's going to be bridesmaid and come back to Lansing with them. The army may save me the trouble though if they send me to Fort Devens, as I think they will, to muster me out. In that case I could spend a couple of days at home and then go to Lansing having the family come along ^{later} for the wedding. Or you

could even be in Lynn when I get back. It may be quite a while before that day comes, but I have the feeling that it won't be as long as you think Sweetheart.

Do you have any prospects of jobs when you finish school? The way you wrote I got the idea that you did have, particularly when you mentioned a monthly wage of \$165. ~~per~~ That, chicken, ain't lay. If we could both save our money that would really give us a nice sum for our plans. We'll need to have a little left over, after we get our furniture and pay for our vacation, as a nucleus for our house fund. That is, for the house we'll build.

Speaking of the house we'll build, I have just about completed the plans for another house, something along the plans of the one I just sent you in that the bedroom unit is a wing of the basic unit. I think it's a better plan though even though the basic unit would cost a little more than the one in the first plan I sent you. This one has the combination perch and kitchen fireplace. I'll send you a sketch as soon as I complete it.

The days here have become a very monotonous sameness of happenings that are a blessing to anyone who wants so desperately

to see the end of my life in the Army. Sunday, Monday, Tuesday or any other day of the week are one and the same and since I shift my sense of time into neutral I am able to make time seem to go by fast.

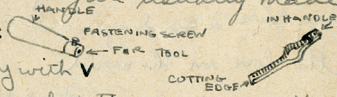
It's later now than when I started this letter. I was going to take my night off tonight and go to the show to see Bob Hope's latest picture "The Princess and the Pirate." The Guinea weather man decided differently though and upended his rain bucket so that I worked instead. I get ~~tomorrow night~~ ^{tonight} off and then instead of taking Monday night, my regular night off, I'll wait until later in the week when Irving Berlin comes here with his show "This is the Army." The stage show is supposed to be here Wednesday or Thursday although I don't know where they'll find a place big enough to hold all of us and a stage large enough to accomodate the full cast of 160 men. It should be a good show. I'll tell you all about it.

I just typed Mac a letter in an effort to clear my unanswered correspondence. Tomorrow night I'll take a busman's holiday and, after the show, will go back to the personnel building to do a lot of typing. I'll get caught up yet or know the reason why.


APR 17 1945
RECEIVED

I'm finally getting around to sending you the woodcuts I bought before Christmas darling. I think they are quite good, particularly the one of the fellow with the kerchief over his head. He probably has grown bald, a cardinal sin among the natives, and hides his shame with the kerchief. That hour glass shaped ~~of~~ object which one of the pictured natives is holding and hammering on is a drum, New Guinea version.

Speaking of woodcuts sweetheart, I have a request to make of you. It seems that in everyone of my letters I am sending for something. This time there's no hurry because this is just to make cards of different kinds. Would you check with the book store to see if they have linoleum blocks for making linoleum cuts. Also see whether or not they have cutting tools and knives. Some of these sets have interchangeable blades and one or two handles to use. The tools have different shapes. They are usually made something like this:



the cutting edges vary with V shaped cutters U shaped cutters and L cutters. I'd like about three V shaped cutters, one very fine, one medium, and one medium large. Two

U shaped cutters of nearly medium size, one a little smaller one a little larger. And a medium sized U shaped gouge. They also have knife blades to use, or cutting knives with short stiff blades. I'd like one of those, or if you can get blades for the type of handle illustrated I'd like about three blades. I believe the Speedball Company puts these out. Would you also see about a roller  and a couple tubes of ink, black. Just shop for these and when I send you ~~money~~ money for silver you can get ^{this stuff} ~~that~~ with what is left over. As I said, there's no hurry because I just want to lay in a supply of scenic Christmas cards with it. Something else to keep me busy.

Darling, I've got to leave you again to get myself to bed, a very sad and lonely bed without you to cheer it up for me. I'll be so glad when the time comes where there will never again be goodbyes and we are able to be together always. Until then my love I send you a kiss bringing with it all the love in the world

Freddie